

CLAIMS

1. A system for enabling an e-mail user to avoid receipt of an e-mail message comprising:

a first server means for receiving an e-mail message sent to a first e-mail address associated with the user;

10

a second server means for linking said first e-mail address to a second e-mail address associated with the user;

a third server means for forwarding said e-mail message from said first server means to said second e-mail address; and

a fourth server means for receiving said e-mail message from said second server means and forwarding said e-mail message to the user,

20

wherein said second server means is capable of de-linking said first e-mail address from said second e-mail address to avoid receipt by the user of an e-mail message sent to said first e-mail address.

2. The system defined by claim 1 further comprising a means for generating a succession of first e-mail addresses and linking said generated first e-mail addresses to said second e-mail address for an interval.

3. The system of claim 2 wherein said succession of first e-mail addresses are randomly generated.

30

4. The system of claim 2 wherein said interval is a fixed period of time.

5. The system of claim 2 wherein said interval is based on the receipt at said first e-mail address of a fixed number of e-mail messages.
 6. The system of claim 2 wherein said interval is terminated upon the request of the e-mail user or other person.
 7. The system of claim 2 wherein each of said generated e-mail addresses has a random portion and a non-random portion.
- 10 8. The system of claim 1 wherein said second server means comprises a table for linking said first e-mail address to said second e-mail address.
9. The system of claim 1 wherein said second server means comprises a remote lookup facility for linking said first e-mail address to said second e-mail address.
10. The system of claim 2 wherein the user is notified when the first e-mail address linked to the second e-mail address is de-linked from said second e-mail address.
11. The system of claim 10 wherein the user is notified of the first e-mail address generated and linked to said second e-mail address.
- 20 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the user is notified by means of an e-mail message received at said second e-mail address.
13. The system of claim 11 wherein the user is notified by means of an e-mail message received at said second e-mail address.
14. The system of claim 2 wherein the first e-mail address generated and linked to said second e-mail address is communicated to a register for storing e-mail addresses.
- 30

15. A method for enabling an e-mail user to avoid receipt of an e-mail message comprising:
- receiving at a first server an e-mail message sent to a first e-mail address associated with the user;
- linking said first e-mail address to a second e-mail address associated with the user;
- 10 forwarding said e-mail message from said first server to said second e-mail address at a second server; and
- receiving said e-mail message from said second server and forwarding said e-mail message to the user,
- de-linking said first e-mail address from said second e-mail address to avoid receipt by the user of an e-mail message sent to said first e-mail address.
16. The method defined by claim 15 further comprising the step of generating a
20 succession of first e-mail addresses and linking said generated first e-mail addresses to said second e-mail address for an interval.
17. The method of claim 16 wherein said succession of first e-mail addresses are randomly generated.
18. The method of claim 16 wherein said interval is a fixed period of time.
19. The method of claim 16 wherein said interval is based on the receipt at said first e-mail address of a fixed number of e-mail messages.
- 30 20. The method of claim 16 wherein said interval is terminated upon the request of the e-mail user or other person.

21. The method of claim 16 wherein each of said generated e-mail addresses has a random portion and a non-random portion.
22. The method of claim 15 wherein said first e-mail address and/or said generated first e-mail address is linked to said second e-mail address by a table means.
- 10 23. The method of claim 15 wherein said first e-mail address and/or said generated first e-mail address is linked to said second e-mail address by means of a remote lookup facility.
24. The method of claim 16 wherein the user is notified when the first e-mail address linked to the second e-mail address is de-linked from said second e-mail address.
25. The method of claim 24 wherein the user is notified of the first e-mail address generated and linked to said second e-mail address.
26. The method of claim 24 wherein the user is notified by means of an e-mail message received at said second e-mail address.
- 20 27. The method of claim 25 wherein the user is notified by means of an e-mail message received at said second e-mail address.
28. The method of claim 16 wherein the first e-mail address generated and linked to said second e-mail address is communicated to a register for storing e-mail addresses.